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Chief, Guided Missile Branch

29 June 1959

Deputy Chief, Industrial Division, ORR

Project 37.2083, Collection of Planning Data on Soviet Guided
Missile Program

1. This project gives a very plausible account of the manner in which the Soviet guided missile program is probably planned, supported, and controlled. Since this material should be of considerable use to collectors, publication as an RA is believed to be justified.

2. Regardless of whether or not there is a State Committee for Guided Missiles, the concept of such a Committee helps to point out the kinds of decisions required, the support needed, and the controls probably exercised in connection with the Soviet guided missile program. If not lodged in an independent committee, these powers are probably allocated to a subcommittee of one of the existing defense organs. It is difficult to avoid concluding that regardless of the name by which the instrument is known, some group has the responsibility and authority to cope with the problem. Having established the concept, however, the project largely neglects it, throughout a considerable part of the section on decision making and planning (pp. 19-22), as I think you will agree.

3. Except for a few minor inconsistencies, which I think we can clean up without any difficulty, there is only one major problem that should be disposed of before the project is forwarded for editorial treatment. This is the problem of terminology. It seems to me to be out of the question to put into the hands of collectors a support study that refers to the Councils of the National Economy in at least nine different ways (by actual count), that uses Gosbank synonymously with State Bank, and Industrial Bank with Investment Bank, all without explanation. The State Committee for Guided Missiles is referred to by five variant titles and the defense industries section of the Councils of the National Economy is referred to in at least six different ways. Some of these variants even appear in the Charts, which otherwise would be very useful for targetting purposes. Since terminology is our responsibility and is of critical importance in a target support study, it seems to me that we should clean up these inconsistencies in the Branch.


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SUBJECT: Project 37.2033, Collection of Planning Data on
Soviet Guided Missile Program

4. Attached are a few specific suggestions, which I think
can be taken care of easily, although I shall be happy to discuss
them with you.

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Attachment

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